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SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
(PURSUANT TO S. RES. 400, 94TH CONGRESS)
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Admiral,

Senator Goldwater wrote the attached letter in response to the ABC-TV News program about the CIA. Knowing that it was of direct interest to you, he asked me to forward a copy for your use.

Sincerely,

Earl D. Eisenhower
Minority Staff Director

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BARRY GOLDWATER
ARIZONA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Roone Arledge
Vice President, ABC News
1330 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Arledge:

During my years in public life, I have had many occasions to praise the news media as well as criticize them when I thought they were wrong. Unfortunately, it is in the latter vein that I am writing to you regarding a three-part series on the CIA which was aired by ABC News last week. Realizing the time constraints on a television news program, it is, however, regrettable that inadequate research led to so many glaring errors of omission and commission during the presentation. Certainly there has been enough publicly documented work for your researchers to have been able to gather the proper facts and put them into perspective. Whether we like the idea of intelligence agencies or not, they are an absolute essential if we are to survive in this less than perfect world. The continual "brow-beating" of the agencies will only result in paralysis and stagnation and that would be a disservice to the many fine people who dedicate their lives to the trade. In addition, the President, the Congress and the American people will be ill-served by a third- or fourth-rate intelligence community.

In addition, there are two other facts of life which I am sure you are aware. One is that the American public is slowly losing its confidence in the accuracy and reliability of the news media.

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And, two, that while the media have a large measure of protection under our constitutional system, they are, nevertheless, expected to be responsible "citizens" of our society. Since the American public has a right to expect honest reporting on the various events surrounding their daily lives, I would urge you and your staff to devote more time and attention to the facts that are readily available.

It is my hope that this letter will be taken in the spirit with which it is intended, not as a blind reaction, but rather as a constructive criticism which I hope would enhance your capabilities and reputation.

Sincerely,

Barry Goldwater

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